

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LENING 00562 101315Z POSS DUPE
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----111149Z 114382 /50
R 101230Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3142
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0 5 6 2

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, CSCE, PINT, US, UR
SUBJ: CRACKDOWN ON REMAINING DISSIDENT PUBLICATIONS MAY BE
IMMINENT

REF: (A) LENINGRAD 537, (B) LENINGRAD 0311

1. DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SEEN UPI ITEM FILED MAY 8
NOTING THAT EMILIA SOTNIKOVA, LENINGRAD EDITOR OF
UNOFFICIAL PUBLICATION "JEWS IN USSR" HAS BEEN
SUMMONED TO LENINGRAD PROCURATOR'S OFFICE MAY 10.
THIS COMES ON HEELS OF THREAT BY SOVIET OFFICIALS TO
LENINGRAD WRITER, DAVID DAR, A CONTRIBUTOR TO THIS
PUBLICATION WHO OFFICIALLY RESIGNED FROM LENINGRAD
WRITER'S UNION APRIL 15, THAT SOVIETS ARE GOING TO
"SHUT DOWN ALL PUBLICATIONS WHICH ARE NOT OFFICIALLY
SANCTIONED" AND THAT OFFICIAL WOULD SEE DAR "EITHER
IN THE DOCK OR IN THE WITNESS BOX." DAR'S STRONGLY
WORDED LETTER OF RESIGNATION (TEXT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL)
FROM THE WRITER'S UNION STATED THAT WRITER'S UNION
WAS INITIALLY ORGANIZED TO UNITE COMMUNIST AND NON-PARTY
WRITERS, BUT HAS BECOME PARTY AND GOVERNMENTAL ORGAN
BLOCKING IMPULSES RUSSIAN LITERATURE.

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2. BOTH SOTNIKOVA AND DAR FEAR THAT THESE ACTIONS PRESSAGE
CRACKDOWN NOT ONLY ON "JEWS IN THE USSR" BUT ON OTHER
SAMIZDAT PUBLICATIONS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING "CHRONICLE OF
CURRENT EVENTS." THEY SEE THIS AS EFFORT SHUT DOWN LAST
REMAINING VEHICLES OF UNCONTROLLED EXPRESSION STILL SUR-
VIVING IN SOVIET UNION. DAR HAS WRITTEN PUBLIC LETTER EX-
PRESSING THESE CONCERNS TO NUMBER OF WORLD FAMOUS WRITERS IN-

CLUDING AMERICANS: BELLOW, MALAMUD, ARTHUR MILLER AND ELI WISEL; AND SUCH OTHERS AS HEINRICH BOELL, GUNTER GRASS AND JOHN PAUL SARTRE. TEXT THIS LETTER FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

3. SUCH ACTIONS WOULD BE LOGICAL NEXT STEP FOR LENINGRAD AUTHORITIES WHO IN RECENT MONTHS (A) HAVE DECIMATED RUSSIAN DEMOCRATIC REFORM MOVEMENT HERE BY JAILING VOSNESENSKAYA, FILIMONOV, AND SLOGAN PAINTERS, ATTEMPTED INTIMIDATE SVERDLIN BY COURT ACTION AND HOSPITALIZED LEVIN, AND (B) FOR MOMENT AT LEAST HAVE LITTLE TO WORRY ABOUT AMONG DISSIDENT ARTISTS (REFTEL A). DAR'S APPREHENSION IS ALSO GIVEN SUBSTANCE BY INCREASING SURVEILLANCE IN RECENT MONTHS OF SOTNIKOVA AND OFFICIAL DIRECTIVE THAT SHE IS TO STAY OUT OF MOSCOW, BOTH OF WHICH APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO ISOLATE HER AND WEAKEN WORKING SOLIDARITY BETWEEN LENINGRAD AND MOSCOW.

4. RE LEVIN, WE ARE TOLD THAT HE IS RECOVERING BUT NOT LIKELY TO BE RELEASED FROM LENINGRAD NAVAL HOSPITAL FOR TWO MORE WEEKS. HE THUS WILL HAVE BEEN INCAPACITATED BY MYSTERIOUS BURN RECEIVED MARCH 11 FOR OVER TWO MONTHS. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO LEVIN, WHO ALSO IS ACTIVE ON PUBLICATION "JEWS IN USSR", UPON HIS RELEASE IS PROBLEMATIC. SINCE HE WAS FIRED FROM HIS JOB IN MARCH, HE IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO PROSECUTION ON CHARGES OF PARASITISM. LEVIN HIMSELF CONSIDERS IT POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT KGB, HAVING "TAUGHT HIM A LESSON," MIGHT NOW DECIDE THIS APPROPRIATE TIME TO GET RID OF HIM BY GRANTING HIS EMIGRATION REQUEST. HE HAS BEEN REFUSENIK SINCE JANUARY 1976.
NEUBERT
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Message Attributes

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